Claims 1, 4, 5, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as introducing new matter into the disclosure. In response, claim 1 has been amended, also as kindly suggested by the Examiner. By the amendment to claim 1, this rejection is overcome.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 7[1/] stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, stating that specification does not reasonably enablement for the full scope of isolated DNA for the reasons set forth from page 5, line 18 through page 9 of the Office Action.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to recite hybridizing and washing conditions.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. By cancellation of claim 4, this rejection is overcome.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Hillier (GenBank Accession Number H71225, Bader (GenBank Accession Number U23946), Hettman (GenBank Accession Number S71037), Kelly (GenBank Accession Number X02228), Hillier (GenBank Accession Number N89899), Hillier (GenBank Accession Number H73595), Trick (GenBank Accession Number X52089), Hudson (GenBank Accession Number G24450), and Hillier (GenBank Accession Number T98890). By cancellation of claim 5, this rejection is overcome.

1/ Claim 7 was cancelled in the December 6, 2001 Amendment.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1, 18, 19, 22 and 23 remain presented for continued prosecution.

Regarding a final formal matter, Applicants filed a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on May 10, 2002. Confirmation that the art cited therein has been considered is respectfully requested in the next Patent Office Communication.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Three Times Amended) An isolated DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-6 and 9-12, or [a] an isolated DNA which hybridizes with the isolated DNA immobilized on a filter at 65°C in the presence of 0.7-1.0M NaCl and still hybridizes with the isolated DNA after washing the filter with 0.1 X to 2 X SSC solution (wherein 1 X SSC is 150 mM sodium chloride and 15 mM sodium citrate) at 65°C and comprises a nucleotide sequence having [an identity] a homology of 60% or more with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-6 or having [an identity] a homology of 95% or more with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOS:9-12.

22. (Amended) A method for detecting a mRNA whose expression level increases in leukocytes of IgA nephropathy patients as compared with those of healthy persons by RT-PCR, comprising:

(a) isolating a total RNA from a sample;

(b) synthesizing a cDNA from the RNA; and

(c) amplifying and detecting a DNA fragment by PCR using a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence identical to any continuous 10 to 50 residues in a

nucleotide sequence selected from the nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-6 and 9-12 and a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence identical to any [continuos] continuous 10 to 50 residues in a nucleotide sequence selected from the nucleotide sequences consisting of complementary sequences of SEQ ID NOS:1-6 and 9-12 as primers and the cDNA as a template.

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